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Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Insights from OutsideA Monthly Update from the NRC

January 2016

The NRC updates have a new look for the new year! With this issue, we're introducing our redesigned newsletter, now called, "Insights from Outside." Watch for monthly issues and special bulletins to keep you informed about issues affecting Wellesley's natural resources and our parks, conservation land, and open space.

"Insights from Outside" will feature information from the NRC, <u>Wetlands Protection</u>
<u>Committee</u>, and <u>Trails Committee</u>, including news about our <u>current projects</u> and special events. We will also highlight information from our many <u>partner organizations</u> in Wellesley. We hope you will give us feedback through our occasional surveys, visit <u>our Facebook page</u>, and contact us directly through the NRC web site button below. Best wishes for a healthy 2016!

NRC Web Site



Sign Up for News About Your Favorite Park!

Do you have a favorite park or field that you would like to hear about? The NRC will be issuing occasional updates on specific parks and fields under our jurisdiction. Sign up to get emails about Hunnewell Field (near Wellesley High School), Morses Pond, or another neighborhood favorite, by clicking here. We'll send updates when anything newsworthy arises!

From the NRC Director

The Natural Resources Commission had a productive year in 2015. The department is now fully staffed, with our full-time Wetlands Administrator, Pam Helinek; two part-time secretaries, Helen MacDonald and Bea Mulloney; and our new Education and Outreach Coordinator, Stephanie Hawkinson. I'm proud to lead our talented team as we work to fulfill our mission to preserve and enhance Wellesley's open spaces and natural resources.

Here are some of the projects we completed or developed in 2015:

- 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
- NRC Strategic Plan
- Morses Pond Management Plan and Erosion Study
- Comprehensive Pond Plan
- Wellesley 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Working Group
- Education and Outreach



NRC consultant Ken Wagner maps the Town Duck Pond as part of the Comprehensive Pond Plan, which will study eight ponds in Wellesley.



NRC Director Brandon Schmitt explains the Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project to elementary school students as part of the NRC's outreach program.



Daisy Troop 69053 enjoys the scavenger hunt at the annual Kids Trails Day, hosted by the Trails Committee in the Town Forest.



Industrious volunteers pitched in to help clean up Reeds Pond, near Woodside Avenue.

- Updating the Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM)
- Rezoning NRC property to reflect current use
- Assessment of Kelly Field Tennis Courts
- Reducing single-use plastics

We appreciate the volunteer efforts of our elected board, and the dedication of the members of the Wetlands Protection Committee and the Trails Committee. We're also grateful for the many Wellesley residents who advocate for the Town's wonderful parks and open space. You inspire us to help make Wellesley a cleaner, greener, healthier, and more livable place. We look forward to continuing to build our relationships with residents, businesses, and other Town departments. Please contact our office anytime!

Sincerely,
Brandon Schmitt
Director, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission



Mark your calendars for these UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 15 Wellesley Green Schools, 2016 Kickoff, 1:00 pm, 13 Aberdeen Rd.
- Jan. 21 NRC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Lower Level, Wellesley Town Hall
- Jan. 21 Natural Lawn Care Management Training, The town of Natick hosts a free organic lawn and turf-care course. More information available at <u>Sustainable</u> <u>Wellesley</u>
- Jan. 28 Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Lower Level,
 Wellesley Town Hall
- Feb. 1 & 2 Special Town Meeting, 7:00 pm, Wellesley Middle School
- Feb. 3 Native Plant Gardens: Learning by Example, A free lecture series from <u>Grow Native</u>, <u>Massachusetts</u>

Web Site NRC Meeting Agendas Permit Applications Community Gardens

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The Natural Resources Commission for the Town of Wellesley 781-431-1019 ext. 2294

